

Claims 2 and 15 also remained rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Adachi et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,317,962), hereinafter referred to as Adachi.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's representatives thanks the Examiner for discussing this case on April 27, 2004. Applicant's representatives informed the Applicant of the proposed amendment to claim 2 that was discussed, however, the Applicant is presently unavailable, due to Government holidays in Japan.

Applicant, believes that the present invention, as set forth in the claims, is patentable at least based on the following.

§ 102(b) Rejections (JP'201) - Claims 2 and 15

The Examiner rejects claim 2 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP'201 for the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action. Also, the Examiner adds arguments in the *Response to Arguments* section of the present Office Action. Applicant maintains the arguments submitted in the previous Amendment of October 6, 2003, and traverses the Examiner's rejections of claims 2 and 15 at least based on the following reasons.

In the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action, the Examiner refutes Applicant's arguments presented in the October 6th Amendment, and alleges, given a broad interpretation of claim 2,

when both ends of the laminated strips are joined, via e.g., welding or adhesive bonding, etc., the joined end portions of the cylindrical core are physically less rigid than any other portion thereof because of the following:

(a) inherently, based on the physical material and mechanical structure, the joined portion of both ends are physically not a solid-single portion or materially-integral portion as the rest of the cylindrical core;

(b) broadly interpretation, both ends portions are joined via welding or adhesive, there is a possibility of human error of bonding agents, i.e., soldering material or adhesive bonding material such as resin, would improperly applied resulting from being low rigidity of said both end portions of the cylindrical core proximal portion of the laminate to disjoining the two ends of the laminated strips that form the core.

In response, Applicant maintains the previous arguments in the October 6th Amendment and submits that the end portions of the laminated core of JP'201 are not necessarily or inherently less rigid than the rest of the laminated strip. In fact, metals that have been heat-treated by welding, typically are more rigid as a result. Further, absent any teaching or other evidence about the rigidity of the laminated core or its end portions, the two end portions of a laminated core are likely no less rigid than other portions thereof. Yet, further, Applicant submits that the Examiner has used impermissible hindsight reasoning in alleging that the rigidity at both end portions is inherently lower than the remainder of the laminated strips. Also, with respect to Examiner's comment "(b)" above, such is completely hypothetical. Applicant submits that there is no such mention of "human error" anywhere in JP '201 or Adachi (which is mentioned below). Thus, for at least the reasons above, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable over JP'201.

§ 102(b) Rejections (Adachi) - Claims 2 and 15

The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 15 over Adachi for the same reasons set forth in the previous Amendment. Applicant traverses these rejections at least based on the following.

Applicant submits that claims 2 and 15 are patentable at least based on previously submitted arguments and based on the same reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection over JP'201.

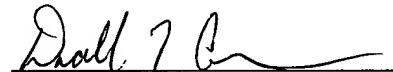
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/688,867

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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